

SEAHAM HARBOUR

Urban District Council.



Annual Report

FOR 1906,

OF


THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



SEAHAM HARBOUR :

W. J. Young, Printer and Stationer, North Railway Street.

1907.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30075154>

**To the Chairman and Members of the Seaham
Harbour Urban District Council.**

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1906.

POPULATION, &c., AT CENSUS 1901.

Population—10,163

Increase between 1891 and 1901—1,119

Percentage of Increase—12·3

Area in Acres—1,101

Number of persons per acre—9·2

Number of Inhabited Houses—1,313

Number of persons per house—7·7

The number of births registered for the years 1901-1906 was 2,754, and the number of deaths 1,321, a natural increase of 1,433.

Since 1901 the following houses have been built and are now occupied: 38 containing three tenements, 47 containing two tenements, and 71 for one tenant. Total number of tenements, 214.

The population estimated to June, 1906, was 11,200.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered was 438, which is 27 less than the previous year; of these births 235 were male and 203 female; 5 were illegitimate. The birth rate was 39·1, as compared with 42·9 the average for the preceding ten years.

DEATHS.

208 deaths of persons belonging to this district occurred, 102 males and 106 females, which gives a mortality rate of 18·5, the lowest death rate recorded for Seaham Harbour. It compares favourably with 25·0 in 1901 and 21·5 the average for the preceding ten years.

The number of deaths of persons under two years of age was 106, equal to a death rate of 9·4, while the deaths of persons of two years and upwards numbered 102, equal to a rate of 9·0.

Of the total number of deaths registered 82 were under the age of 1 year, 32 between 1 and 5 years, 15 between 5 and 25 years, 51 between 25 and 65 years, and 31 from 65 years and upwards.

7 persons belonging to this district died in Easington Workhouse, 1 in Stockton Workhouse, 2 in Sunderland Infirmary, and 1 in Sedgefield Asylum.

1 person belonging to this district and 3 belonging to other districts died in Seaham Infirmary, making a total of 15 deaths in public institutions.

The deaths from phthisis and other tubercular diseases numbered 38, equal to a mortality rate of 3·3 as compared with 3·4 in 1905.

Bronchitis and pneumonia caused 25 deaths, equal to a rate of 2·2 as against 5·6 in the previous year.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

We have been remarkably free from zymotic diseases during the year. The deaths which occurred were those of 25 infants from diarrhœa, equal to a rate of 2·2 as compared to 3·3 in 1905. These children were all under two years of age, and their deaths took place in the following months: January 1, March 1, July 1, August 3, September 10, October 8, and November 1.

INFANT MORTALITY.

I now come to the part of my report which deserves your most careful consideration. Although the general death rate has declined the infant mortality rate is higher than last year.

82 deaths of children under one year of age occurred, equal to a rate of 187 per 1,000 births as compared with 169 in 1905, and 174 the average for the preceding ten years.

If to the above we add the deaths of infants between one and two years, we find that 106, or more than half the total number of deaths, were of children under two years of age.

25 infants under two years died from congenital defects, or from having been born prematurely, and 26 from congenital debility.

Such undoubtedly preventable diseases as diarrhoea and tuberculosis caused 46 deaths.

7 deaths were due to bronchitis and pneumonia as compared with 37 in 1905.

The causes of our high infant mortality rate were improper food and insanitary surroundings, aggravated by the unusually hot weather, the temperature having reached 89·2 in the shade on September 1st.

Handbills were issued by the Council warning the inhabitants of the danger of infantile diarrhoea, and urging them to keep their houses clean and well ventilated.

I regret to say that in many cases this salutary advice was not acted upon, and infants were permitted to crawl over floors covered with filthy rag mats.

The bedding and bed clothes of these little sufferers are often indescribably dirty, and no doubt infected with the microbe of this deadly disease.

Many of the houses are "thorough cleaned" only at Christmas. Houses should be cleaned regularly, especially in the summer and autumn months when the microbe of diarrhœa is most virulent.

Infants generally are permitted to suck a "dumb teat," which may produce deformity of the jaws, and is a dangerous source of infection, especially when picked off a dirty floor.

Notwithstanding my previous remarks on this subject improper feeders are still in use.

Mothers whose children are breast-fed should pay special attention to personal cleanliness.

It is of vital importance that children should have pure milk. The system of selling milk from door to door is a bad one; it necessitates the frequent removal of the lid of the can, a dangerous proceeding in dusty streets, especially in hot weather.

I think the Council should establish a depot for the sale of milk, and that cows and the farms from which the milk is supplied should be regularly inspected, special attention being paid to the water supply.

Cows should not be milked in the byre, but in a specially constructed milking shed, with a cement floor. This shed should be divided into two compartments. In the first there should be a supply of pure water, and here the udders of the cows and the hands of the milkers should be washed. The second compartment should be used for milking only.

I consider it advisable to register the birth of every child within twenty-four hours. Then the Registrar should notify a lady health inspector, whose duty would be to visit the home and give

directions as to the feeding and general management of the child.

If children were visited regularly during the first two years of their lives I feel sure it would have an excellent effect, as mothers who are ignorant but willing to learn would be educated, and careless ones urged to do their duty.

In order to stop this deplorable waste of infant life, a clean sanitary home is a primary necessity ; it should be seen to now, that the future mothers of the race are thoroughly instructed in the laws of domestic hygiene in the elementary schools.

I shall draw up some rules as to the feeding of children and distribute them in the district.

I give a table shewing the ages and causes of death of all children under five years of age.

Deaths from stated Causes of Children under Five Years of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total Deaths under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year	1-2 Yrs.	2-3 Yrs.	3-4 Yrs.	4-5 Yrs.	Total Deaths under 5 Years	
Common Infectious Diseases	Smallpox ..																						
	Chicken-pox ..																						
	Measles ..																						
	Scarlet Fever ..																						
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Diphtheria: Croup																						
	Whooping Cough ..																						
	Diarrhoea, all forms																						
	Enteritis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)																						
Wasting Diseases	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh																						
	Premature Birth ..	16	2	1		19												18	7				25
	Congenital Defects	1	2	1		4												6					
	Injury at Birth ..																						
Tuberculous Diseases	Want of Breast-milk																						
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	4		1		5	2	1	1	1								12	4	1	1		12
	Tuberculous Meningitis ..																						
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica ..																						
Other Tuberculous Diseases	Other Tuberculous Diseases ..																						
	Erysipelas ..																						
	Syphilis ..		1	1		2																	
	Rickets ..																						
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	Meningitis ..																						
	Convulsions ..																						
	Bronchitis ..																						
	Laryngitis ..																						
Other Causes	Pneumonia ..																						
	Suffocation, overlying	1	1			1																	
	Other Causes ..																						
		22	6	4	2	34	4	4	3	6	3	3	3	6	7	7	2	82	24	4	3	1	114

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

13 cases of infectious disease were notified, which compares favourably with 26 in 1905 and 109 in 1903.

6 cases of scarlatina were notified. It was of a mild type and no death occurred.

There has not been a case of smallpox, but the hospital is always kept in readiness, so that any case which may occur can be promptly isolated.

1 person contracted enteric fever, how I am quite unable to say. Unfortunately the nurse in charge of this patient became infected.

On four occasions we were threatened with an epidemic of measles. The cases which occurred were isolated as far as possible, and children living in infected houses were not permitted to attend school. So far these precautions have prevented the spread of the disease.

1 case of enteric fever was treated in the isolation hospital.

The following table shews the number of cases of infectious disease notified in each year since 1894.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during 1906 and previous years.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906
Small-pox ..	1												
Cholera...													
Diphtheria ..		2		2			2	9	18	42	7		3
Membranous) Croup]		1					1	1					
Erysipelas ..	16	11	14	10	12	7	11	8	3	6	21	13	2
Scarlet Fever ..	147	77	86	40	36	12	25	84	43	56	13	12	6
Typhus Fever..													
Enteric Fever..	12	20	14	11	20	27	30	28	14	5	2	1	2
Relapsing Fever													
Continued Fever		3											
Puerperal Fever													
Plague													
Totals ..	176	114	114	63	68	46	69	130	78	109	43	26	13

GENERAL SANITATION.

The water supply pumped from the magnesian limestone has usually been quite satisfactory in every respect.

During the months of October and November it was noticed that the supply contained moving organisms. Samples were sent for analysis, which shewed that the water was receiving surface contamination, and therefore dangerous to public health. The analyst's report was referred to the Water Company who intimated that they had laid down a new main and sluice pipe from the reservoir, so as to obviate the necessity of using the supply pipe as a wash-out. Subsequently a sample was sent for analysis and found to be wholesome drinking water.

208 middens have been removed during the year, 154 having been replaced by W.Cs. and 54 by ash-closets with movable bins. There are at present 7 middens in the district, and these will be replaced by W.Cs. during the present year. Obviously, as far as sanitation is concerned, the town has never been in such a satisfactory condition, 669 insanitary middens having been removed during the last five years. The present-day arrangements contrast favourably with the time when the contents of these filthy structures were emptied on to the streets.

22 imperfectly paved yards have been cemented, 23 asphalted, and 28 re-paved. I consider that all yards paved with cobble stones are insanitary and should be cemented.

Ten new streets having been put in order, to the satisfaction of the Council, will become highways repairable by the inhabitants.

The scavenging is done by the employees of the Council and has been carried out satisfactorily. Part

of the refuse is used as manure and the remainder tipped into the sea. Night scavenging has been discontinued.

During the year 54 new houses have been built; 11 for two tenants and 43 for one. This is satisfactory as many of the existing houses do not make ideal dwellings.

In North Terrace, North Railway Street, South Railway Street, Henry Street, and Green Street, the houses are built back to back. There is no back street, and in many cases the only means of access to the yards is through the front doors of the dwellings. It is difficult to realise how building on this system was ever permitted, and I hope that at some future date these streets will be reconstructed.

Three stone drains, one in Pilot Terrace, one in Church Street, and one in South Railway Street, have been taken out and replaced by proper sanitary pipes. I expect the drainage of the town will be put in good order during the present year.

There are three common lodging-houses in the district, affording accommodation for 69 lodgers, with an average of 312 cubic feet of air space per head. They have been inspected frequently and found in good order. No case of infectious disease occurred in any of the lodging houses during the year.

There are two dairy farms which have been inspected regularly. The cow sheds are well kept, and 853 cubic feet of air space allowed for each animal.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are in the district 9 factories, 21 workshops, 20 milk shops, and 46 bakeries. They have been

regularly inspected and found generally in a satisfactory condition. In some cases it was necessary to order white-washing, and one underground bake-house was condemned.

There are no out-workers in the district.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

Removal of all middens.

Cementing of all imperfectly paved yards.

Improvement of the present sewerage system.

Reference to the Surveyor's report will show the large amount of work done in his department.

Through the kindness of Mr. Aird, I am able to append a report on the weather during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LUKE GERALD DILLON, M.D., M.Ch.,

Medical Officer of Health.

*Tempest House,
Seaham Harbour,
January, 1907.*

BIRTHS

Months	Male	Female	Monthly Totals
January	27	15	42
February	22	23	45
March	20	19	39
April	19	10	29
May	27	20	47
June.. ..	17	16	33
July	13	23	36
August	20	14	34
September ..	22	19	41
October	15	16	31
November	14	15	29
December	19	13	32
YEARLY TOTALS ..	235	203	438

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in Whole District at Subjoined Ages							Deaths in Public Institutions
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox								
Measles								
Scarlet Fever								
Whooping Cough								
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup								
Croup								
Fever { Typhus								
{ Enteric								
{ Other continued								
Epidemic Influenza								
Cholera								
Plague								
Diarrhœa	25	18	7					
Enteritis								
Puerperal Fever								
Erysipelas								
Other Septic Diseases	2		2					
Phthisis	12	2		2	1	7		
Other Tubercular Diseases	26	8	14	2	1	1		1
Cancer, malignant disease	5					5		
Bronchitis	12	5	1			4	2	
Pneumonia	13	2	4	1		3	3	2
Pleurisy								
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs								
Alcoholism	3					3		
Cirrhosis of Liver								
Venereal diseases	3	3						1
Premature Birth	19	19						
Diseases and accidents of parturition	2					2		
Heart diseases	19			1	1	14	3	2
Accidents	6	1	1	1	1		2	3
Suicides	1					1		
All other causes	60	24	3		1	11	21	6
All causes	208	82	32	7	5	51	31	15

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1906 and Previous Years.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT					Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT	
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages							
		Num-ber	Rate	Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate	Num-ber				Rate	
1896	9614	478	44.5	91	21.2	207	21.5			8	215	22.3	
1897	9728	397	40.8	85	21.4	205	21.0			19	224	23.0	
1898	9842	378	38.4	70	18.5	191	19.4			12	203	20.6	
1899	9957	420	42.1	75	17.8	196	19.6			10	206	20.6	
1900	10074	424	42.0	74	17.4	213	21.1			14	227	22.5	
1901	10192	446	43.7	82	18.3	243	23.8			12	255	25.0	
1902	10312	481	47.6	75	15.5	195	18.9	1	1	11	205	19.8	
1903	10433	465	44.5	69	14.8	213	20.4			5	218	20.8	
1904	10556	459	43.4	58	12.6	187	17.7	1	1	15	201	19.0	
1905	11000	465	42.2	79	16.9	223	20.2			12	234	21.2	
Averages for years 1896-1905	10170	441	42.9	75	17.4	207	20.3			11	218	21.4	
1906	11200	438	39.1	82	18.7	200	17.8	4	3	11	208	18.5	

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District	III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District
Seabam Infirmary	Easington Workhouse Sunderland Infirmary Sedgefield Asylum	Stockton Workhouse
Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.		

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1906.
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total Deaths under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
ALL CAUSES	Certified ..	22	6	4	2	34	4	3	3	6	3	2	3	5	7	7	2	79
	Uncertified ..						1	1	1			1		1				3
Common Infectious Diseases	(Smallpox ..																	
	Chicken-pox ..																	
	Measles ..																	
	Scarlet Fever ..																	
	Diphtheria: Croup ..																	
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Whooping Cough ..																	
	Diarrhoea, all forms ..				1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	3	4	3	1	18
	Enteritis (not Tuberculous)																	
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ..																	
	Premature Birth ..	16	2	1		19												19
Wasting Diseases	Congenital Defects ..	1	2	1		4	1		1									6
	Injury at Birth ..																	
	Want of Breast-milk ..																	
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	4		1		5	2	1	1	1				1	1		1	12
	Tuberculous Meningitis ..																	
Tuberculous Diseases	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica ..								1						2	2		7
	Other Tuberculous Diseases ..										1						1	3
	Erysipelas ..																	
	Syphilis ..		1	1		2				1								3
	Rickets ..																	
(not Tuberculous)	Meningitis ..																	
	Convulsions ..																	
	Bronchitis ..				1	1												3
	Laryngitis ..															1		3
	Pneumonia ..	1	1			1					1							2
Other Causes	Suffocation, overlying ..																	1
	Other Causes ..																	3
		22	6	4	2	34	4	4	3	6	3	3	3	6	7	7	2	82

Population, estimated to middle of 1906, 11,200.
 Births in the year { legitimate, 433.
 { illegitimate, 5.
 Deaths in the year { legitimate infants, 81.
 { illegitimate infants, 1.
 Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 208.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the year 1906.

Notifiable Disease	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT							Cases Removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages –Years						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Smallpox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria	3		1	2				
Membranous Croup								
Erysipelas	2					2		
Scarlet Fever ..	6		1	5				
Typhus Fever ..								
Enteric Fever ..	2					2		1
Relapsing Fever ..								
Continued Fever ..								
Puerperal Fever ..								
Plague								
TOTALS	13		2	7		4		1

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.



CASES NOTIFIED.

Months	Number of Cases Notified	CAUSES										
		Smallpox	Cholera	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	FEVERS				
								Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Relapsing	Continued	Puerperal
January ..												
February ..	2					1	1					
March ..	1						1					
April ..	1						1					
May ..												
June ..												
July ..												
August .												
September	5			2		1	1		1			
October ..	2						1		1			
November	1						1					
December	1			1								
YEARLY TOTALS	13			3		2	6		2			

**SUMMARY of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances'
Department during the Year 1906, in the Urban
District of Seaham Harbour.**

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.					Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dwelling-houses and Schools	{	Foul Conditions ..		14		14	
		Structural Defects		6		6	
		Overcrowding ..		21		21	
Lodging-houses		..	..	..	6	6
Dairies and Milkshops		..	..	..	4	4
Cowsheds		..	..	..	2	2
Bakehouses		..	..	..	6	6
Slaughter-houses		..	..	..	4	4
* Ashpits and Privies		208	7	208
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		..			8		8
Waterclosets		22		22
Defective Yard Paving		73		73
House Drainage	{	Defective Traps ..	..	29	5	29
		No Disconnection from Sewers	..	..	
		Other Faults	..	..	22	22
Water Supply		..	..	..
Pigsties		..	..	..	3	3
Animals Improperly Kept		..	..		10	10
Offensive Trades		..	..	..
Smoke Nuisances		..	..	..
Other Nuisances		22		22
Totals					460	12	460

*154 privies have been replaced with waterclosets, and 54 with ashclosets and movable bins.

	Number
2. Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.	
Formal Notices served	3
Dwellings dealt with.. .. .	6
Dwellings made habitable after formal notice	4
Closing Orders applied for	
Closing Orders granted by Magistrates	
Dwellings permanently closed	
3. Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.	
Action taken, Notices served, &c.	6
4. Water, Food and Drugs.	
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	4
„ „ condemned as unfit for use	2
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ..	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ..	
„ „ found Adulterated	
5. Precautions against Infectious Disease.	
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	12
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	14
Schools „ „ „ „	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ..	
Convictions „ „ „	

JAMES BURRELL,

Inspector of Nuisances.

RAINFALL.

Month	Total	Greatest fall in 24 hours	No. of Days
	Inches	Inches	
January	2·411	·570 on 18th	17
February	1·287	·320 19th	14
March	1·023	·170 8 & 10	12
April	1·134	·230 29th	16
May.. ..	4·970	2·232 19th	22
June	·861	·280 17th	9
July.. ..	·863	·330 31st	9
August	2·221	·332 10th	19
September	·423	·143 14th	5
October	4·562	1·100 18th	22
November	3·051	1·104 2nd	14
December	2·420	·430 26th	20
	25·226		179

Average for the years 1865 to 1871 inclusive—26·014 inches

Total for the year 1872 —41·620 inches

Average for the years 1873 to 1906 inclusive—26·412

„ Number of days on which rain fell—185

The year 1900 was the wettest in 38 years (except 1872), viz. 33·836 inches. The following were the next wettest :—

{ 1876	30·083
{ 1877	32·094
{ 1881	31·391
{ 1882	30·494
1903	32·394

One inch of rain is equal to 1 gallon of water spread over 2 square feet, or 101 tons on an acre of land.

G. H. AIRD.

Weather at Seaham Harbour for the Year 1906.

WIND.

The direction is taken twice daily, viz. : 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
The 730 observations thus taken were in the following proportions :

SW	..	..	185
W..	..	..	146
N ..	..	..	69
NW	..	..	68
SE	..	..	60
S ..	..	..	56
NE	..	..	42
E ..	..	..	16
Calm	..	..	88
			730

TEMPERATURE.

Month	Average Maximum	Average Minimum	Mean
January	44·3	37·2	40·7
February	42·0	32·3	37·1
March	45·8	34·8	40·3
April	50·9	35·3	43·1
May	54·1	43·8	48·7
June	61·2	49·4	55·3
July	65·9	51·5	58·7
August	67·6	53·1	60·3
September	63·5	49·0	56·2
October	55·2	44·7	49·9
November	49·6	42·2	45·9
December	41·5	33·6	37·5
MEANS	53·5	42·2	

Highest, 89°·2, Sept, 1st ; Lowest, 24°·5, Dec. 26th.